

The Benefits & Costs of Evidence-Based Prevention & Intervention

**Washington Learns
Early Learning Council
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Two Legislatively-Assigned Questions to WSIPP

1. What “**evidence-based,**” “**real-world**” programs can achieve these outcomes?

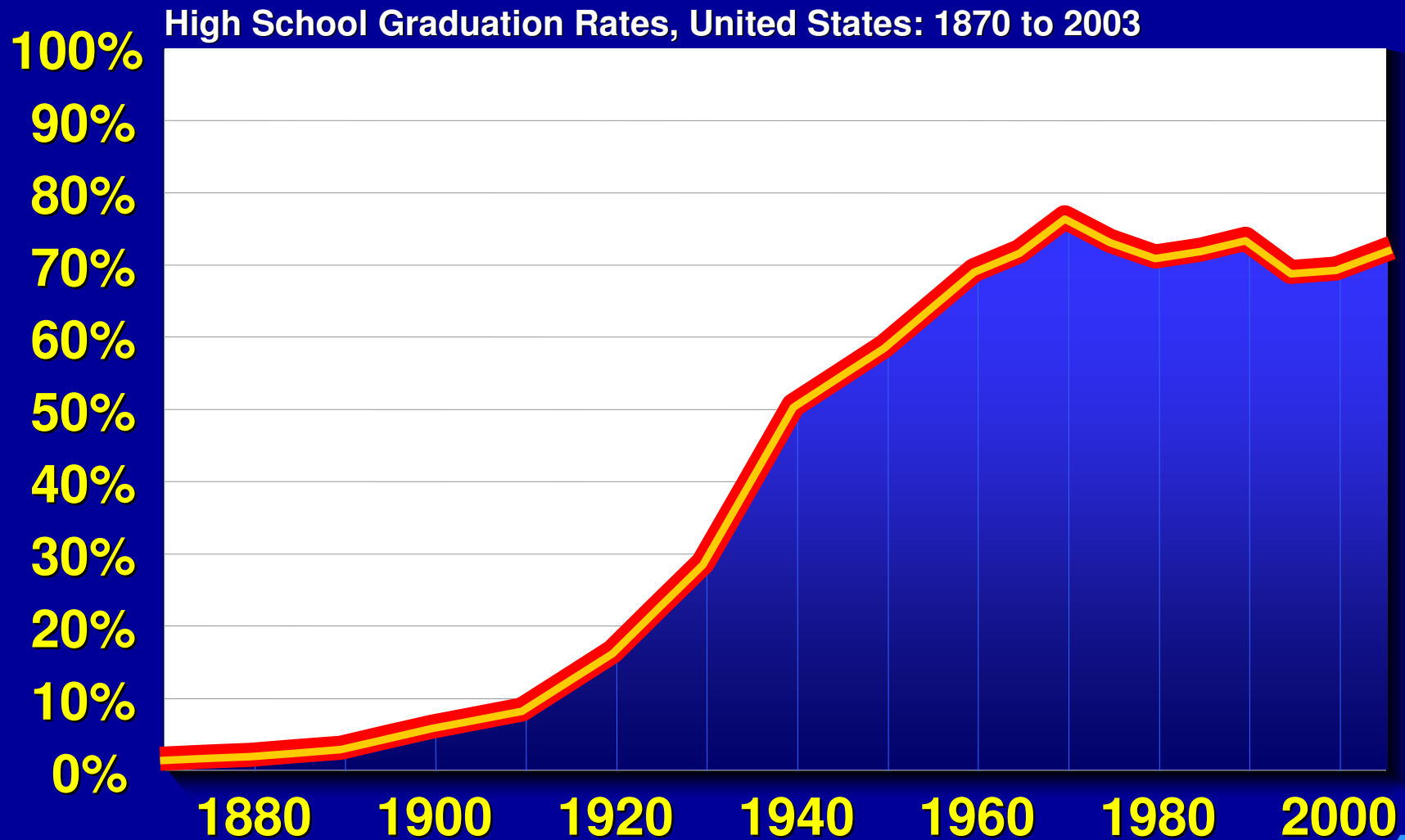
- Reduce crime,
- Lower substance abuse,
- Improve educational outcomes,
- Decrease teen pregnancy,
- Lower child abuse or neglect,
- Reduce teen suicides, or
- Reduce domestic violence?

We reviewed **rigorous** program evaluations and computed effects (**using meta-analysis**)

2. What are the **economics** of each option?

Public Policy Challenge: Education

Can Washington Implement a Portfolio of Evidence-Based,
Cost-Beneficial Programs to Improve
High School Graduation Rates?



What Can Early Childhood Education Achieve?

We conducted a systematic review of every rigorous program evaluation of early childhood education (ECE) conducted in the United States since 1965

Can Early Childhood Education for Low Income 3 & 4 Year Olds Have an Effect on These Outcomes?	Number of Rigorous Studies	"Effect Size" Statistic
High School Graduation Rates	10	+.128
K-12 Grade Repetition	24	-.182
Use of K-12 Special Education	23	-.139
Standardized Test Scores (end of HS)	27	+.094
Crime Rates Later in the Youth's Life	8	-.165
Public Assistance	3	.000
Teen Births (to women under age 18)	4	.000
Child Abuse & Neglect in the Youth's Family	1	-.205

What does **+.128** mean? Answer:

Without ECE, a low-income youth has a 70% chance of graduating from high school; with ECE, the odds increase to about 76%.

Is Early Childhood Education for Low-Income 3 and 4 Year Olds a Good Investment?

(2005 Dollars, Present Value)

Benefits Per Youth

Main Source of Benefits

Increased high school graduation	\$9,966	Increased earnings
Reduced K12 grade repetition	\$206	Lower K12 Costs
Reduced K12 special education	\$135	Lower K12 Costs
Reduced crime	\$5,068	Lower CJ & Victim \$
Reduced child abuse & neglect	\$1,919	Lower CW & Victim \$
Reduced alcohol and drug abuse	\$278	Increased earnings
Offset child care costs	<u>\$1,897</u>	Lower CC Costs

Total Benefits Per Youth	\$19,469
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Cost Per Youth	\$7,709
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Benefits Per Dollar of Cost	<u>\$2.53</u>
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5 Successful Early Childhood Programs

Summary of Benefits and Costs (2005 Dollars)

Dollars per Person (PV lifecycle)	Benefits	Costs	B / C
Early Childhood Education	\$19,469	\$7,709	\$2.53
<u>Nurse Family Partnership</u>	\$31,974	\$9,632	\$3.32
<u>Intensive Family Pres. Srv.*</u>	\$6,794	\$2,673	\$2.54
<u>HIPPY</u>	\$3,154	\$1,916	\$1.65
<u>Parent-Child Interact Therapy</u>	\$5,382	\$1,367	\$3.94

Summary of our Findings (to date)

Can Evidence-Based Prevention and Intervention Pay Off?

- ✓ **Good News:** Credible scientific evidence indicates that **some** well-implemented policies and programs achieve significantly more benefits than costs.
- ✓ **Useful News:** Credible evidence indicates that **some** policies and programs do not pay off.
- ✓ **Bad News:** Many (most) existing policies and programs lack a rigorous outcome evaluation.
- ✓ **More Good News:** Markets for evidence-based programs are developing.

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